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**FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP**

745 Fifth Avenue

New York, New York 10151

Telephone: (212) 588-0800

Facsimile: (212) 588-0500

E-mail: Firm@flhlaw.com

**FACSIMILE COVER LETTER**

**To:** Commissioner for Patents  
Examiner Rueben M. Brown

**Firm:** U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Art Unit 2623

**Facsimile:** (571) 273-8300

**From:** William S. Frommer

**Date:** November 14, 2007

**Re:** FLH Ref No.: 450100-4486  
Serial No.: 09/078,853

**Number of Pages:** 3  
(including cover page)

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CENTRAL FAX CENTER PATENT  
NOV 14 2007 50100-4486

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s) : Yasushi TAKAHASHI et al. Notice of Allowance  
Dated: 08/23/2007  
Serial No. : 09/078,853  
For : INFORMATION RETRIEVAL METHOD AND  
APPARATUS  
Filed : May 14, 1998  
Examiner : Rueben M. Brown  
Art Unit : 2623  
Confirmation No. : 7718

745 Fifth Avenue  
New York, New York 10151

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November 14, 2007

Date of Signature

**RESPONSE TO EXAMINER'S STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

Mail Stop Issue Fee  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:


This is in response to the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance, which  
accompanied the Notice of Allowance mailed August 23, 2007. To the extent the Examiner's

PATENT  
450100-4486

Statement of Reasons for Allowance states, implies or is construed to mean that the claims are allowable over the prior art of record because the Examiner believes the claims should be interpreted to include one or more features or limitations not recited therein, Applicants' attorney disagrees with such an interpretation. Moreover, it is Applicants' contention that there is no particular limitation in the allowed claims that is more critical than any other. The issuance of the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance should not be construed as a surrender by Applicants of any subject matter. It is the intent of Applicants, by their attorney, to construe the allowed claims so as to cover the invention disclosed in the instant application and all equivalents to which the claimed invention is entitled.

Respectfully submitted,

FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP  
Attorneys for Applicants

By   
William S. Frommer  
Reg. No. 25,506  
(212) 588-0800